

VaANG maintainers take home six annual awards

Two Virginia Air National Guard Airmen have been named winners for what's known as the most prominent award in the Air Force maintenance field. Capt. Andrew Gibler and Master Sgt. William Marshall from the 192nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron are this year's Gen. Lew Allen Jr. Award winners at the Air National Guard-level. The two competed against Airmen from more than 80 other units with flying missions and will go on to compete at the Air Force-level in the coming months. Winners at the Air Force-level receive their trophies from the current Air Force chief of staff in a special ceremony held at the Pentagon each year.

"The [Gen.] Lew Allen award is one of the most prestigious annual awards given to maintainers as its focus is on sortie generation and mission execution," said Col. Matthew Hummel, 192nd Maintenance Group commander. "Those are two things our unit and these two amazing Airmen do best. These winners represent all of Team Langley's maintainers -- no doubt!"

The annual award is named after the 10th CSAF, whose legacy is attention to detail and technical expertise.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/x7mbh>



Master Sgt. Will Marshall, 192nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron production superintendent, poses on flight line Oct. 4, 2020, at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia. He won the Gen. Lew Allen Jr. Award at the Air National Guard level.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Veterans Day honors service and sacrifice

Because of the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Virginia National Guard participation in Veterans Day events was reduced, but the service and sacrifice of the men and women of the Armed Forces was still honored.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/x7VgD>

Upgrade: Popular range at MTC gets major renovation

After a nearly year-long renovation project, the Multi-Purpose Range Complex at Maneuver Training Center Fort Pickett, Virginia, was formally reopened with a ceremony Nov. 6, 2020.

Read more: <http://go.usa.gov/x7mjrr>

VDF welcomes new command sergeant major

Command Sgt. Maj. (Va.) Tony Kegley took responsibility as the Virginia Defense Force command sergeant major from Command Sgt. Maj. (Va.) Alan Grandis Nov. 7, 2020, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/x7Vgk>

VaARNG and VDF chaplains celebrate ongoing partnership

Chaplains from the Virginia Army National Guard and Virginia Defense Force recognized the retirement of Lt. Col. (Va.) David C. Lagerveld, the VDF's senior chaplain, and the ongoing partnership with VDF chaplains providing support at Fort Pickett during a lunch held in October in the Richmond area.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/x7Vg9>

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Va. Army National Guard

<http://nationalguard.com/va>

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Va. Defense Force

<http://vdf.virginia.gov/joinvdf/>

Join the Virginia Army National Guard Alumni Network

<https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/vngan/>

Soldier and Family Readiness Program provides one-stop shop

In recent months, Virginia National Guard Family Programs has undergone significant changes. The Soldier and Family Readiness Program has transitioned to one all encompassing program to provide assistance and support to Soldiers and their families. This has taken place with programs nationwide and has been put into effect by National Guard Bureau.

The SFRP is now comprised of civilian federal employees. This program has transitioned into what used to be the contracted Family Assistance and Family Readiness Support programs encompassing all of the previous duties and improving on those processes.

“Soldier and Family Readiness is now one comprehensive program to provide direct support to Army leadership and to assist National Guard service members and their families navigate the unique challenges of their military and civilian lives,” said Teresa Merritt, lead Soldier and Family Readiness Program coordinator.

There are 10 Soldier and Family Readiness Assistance Centers throughout the state to support the geographically-dispersed force and families of the Virginia National Guard. They are now located in Abingdon, Danville, Fort Pickett, Fredericksburg, Hampton, Hanover, Norfolk, Richmond, Staunton and Virginia Beach and fall under the Virginia National Guard director of human resources and the state Family Program director.

The SFRP is designed to be the Guard’s entry point and primary contact for all readiness and assistance needs.

The Soldier and Family Readiness Specialists provide assistance and non-medical case management to service members and families on a variety of subjects. An example of these services are basic financial education, Tricare claims assistance, ID card questions, resource and referral to community services, state agencies, employment assistance and guidance through the Exceptional Family Member Program if they have a family member with special needs that fall under EFMP.

They also work closely with the commander’s Family Readiness Program to assist Army leadership and volunteers. They provide training support and briefings to command leadership, family readiness groups, Soldiers and families, and community partners.

The SFRS support Yellow Ribbon events to keep in touch with deploying Soldiers and families, and work closely with the Recruit Sustainment Program to educate new recruits coming in the Guard and get them off to a successful start in their careers. They are out in our communities forming relationships with agencies and organizations that can help our Soldiers and families and maintain an up to date state directory of those resources.

While their focus will remain Virginia Army National Guard Soldiers and their family members, SRFS will not turn away other military members and their families.

“There is no wrong door for our services and it is now truly a one-stop shop. You can call any one of our numbers and we will get you to the right person for what you need,” said Sais. “All 10 positions are now filled and actively on board and these positions will be able to provide more sustainable support to our service



Virginia National Guard Soldier and Family Readiness specialists provide assistance and non-medical case management on a variety of subjects.

member versus contract positions.”

Services are confidential and available throughout the week during normal office hours and 24 hours through their emergency assistance hotline 434-480-6585. A member of the staff operates this hotline at all times.

“We are here to navigate the services and resources available to our service members and families and help with the information overload,” said Merritt. “We are here to identify ways to make their military and civilian lives a success.”

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/x7VgT>

MORE ON THE WEB

Challenges of dual-military couple balanced by benefits

<https://go.usa.gov/x7Vga>

Martin assumes command of 192nd Support Squadron

<https://go.usa.gov/x7mjQ>

Photos: Astphan takes command of 429th BSB

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157716915893112/>

Photos: VDF conducts statewide response exercise

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157716853061871>

Photos: VNG Soldiers get connected during JISCC training

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